

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
HOWARD SOBELMAN  
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.  
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PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2202

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 21 2008**

**PCT**

**SNELL & WILMER**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND  
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) **16 JUL 2008**

Applicant's or agent's file reference  
80655.3216

**FOR FURTHER ACTION** See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.  
PCT/US07/78253

International filing date  
(day/month/year) 12 September 2007 (12.09.2007)

Applicant  
AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES COMPANY

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

**Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

**When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

**Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70.

**For more detailed instructions,** see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.

☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. **Reminders**

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

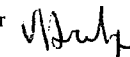
Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase **until 30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US  
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Eric W. Stamber   
Telephone No. (571) 272-5250

Form PCT/ISA/220 (January 2004)

(See notes on accompanying sheet)

article 19 amend due 9/16/08 disclose to USPTO 10/16/08

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 80655.3216	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US07/78253	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 12 September 2007 (12.09.2007)	(Earliest) Priority Date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 10 October 2006 (10.10.2006)
Applicant AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES COMPANY		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 2 sheets.

☐

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the Report**

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of:

☒

the international application in the language in which it was filed.

☐

a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))

b. ☐ This international search report has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 Rule 43.6 *bis(a)*

c. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box No. II)

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (See Box No. III)

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 15

☒

as suggested by the applicant.

☐

as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐

as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/78253

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: G06Q 30/00( 2006.01)

USPC: 705/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 705/14

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

East text search (advance, future, points, loyalty, credit)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/0021457 A1 (JOHNSON et al) 27 January 2005 (27.01.2005), Paragraphs 0036, 0062-0065	1-16
E	US 2007/0239523 A1 (YI) 11 October 2007 (11.10.2007), Paragraph 0019.	1-16



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:		"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 June 2008 (17.06.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 JUL 2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Eric W. Stamber  
Telephone No. (571) 272-5250

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:  
HOWARD SOBELMAN  
SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.  
ONE ARIZONA CENTER  
400 E. VAN BUREN  
PHOENIX, AZ 85004-2202

# PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) <span style="float: right; font-size: 1.2em;">16 JUL 2008</span>	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 80655.3216	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/US07/78253	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 September 2007 (12.09.2007)
Priority date (day/month/year) 10 October 2006 (10.10.2006)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC: <b>G06Q 30/00</b> ( 2006.01) USPC: 705/14	
Applicant AMERICAN EXPRESS TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES COMPANY	

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I      Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II      Priority
- ☐ Box No. III      Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV      Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI      Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII      Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII      Certain observations on the international application

## 2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Date of completion of this opinion 17 June 2008 (17.06.2008)	Authorized officer Eric W. Stamber Telephone No. (571) 272-5250
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US07/78253

**Box No. I Basis of this opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed

☐ a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. ☐ This opinion has been established taking into account the **rectification of an obvious mistake** authorized by or notified to this Authority under Rule 91 (Rule 43*bis*.1(a))

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐ a sequence listing

☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐ on paper

☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐ contained in the international application as filed.

☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

4. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

5. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.  
PCT/US07/78253

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-16</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-16</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

**2. Citations and explanations:**

Claims 1-16 lack novelty under PCT Article 33(2) as being anticipated by Johnson (U.S. Pub No. 2005/0021457).

Regarding claims 1, 7-9, 12-16, Johnson teaches awarding points to a customer, the points being exchangeable for rewards. When a redemption is requested, Johnson teaches checking to see if there are enough points in the customer account, and if there are not, allowing the customer to borrow points. When the redemption takes place, the points are debited (and transferred to an "entity") (Paragraph 0064).

Regarding claim 2, Johnson teaches calculating an amount of borrowed reward points needed based on the amount currently in the account (Paragraph 0064). The amount currently in the account is based on purchase history. Thus, the amount of borrowed reward points needed is based on purchase history.

Regarding claims 3-6, 10, 11, Johnson teaches a time period to re-earn borrowed points, and should that time period be exceeded, a payment of a fee (Paragraph 0064).